

What is claimed is:

1. A block encoding method, comprising steps of:

5 determining whether an original block of m bits is a $(2N-1)^{st}$ block of m bits, "m" and N being positive integers; and

10 encoding, if the original block of m bits is the $(2N-1)^{st}$ block of m bits, the original block of m bits as an A type weighted block of n bits, and, if otherwise, encoding the original block of m bits as a B type weighted block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer larger than "m".

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the bit number "a" of bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation $2^m < {}_nC_a$, "a" being a positive integer, and the bit number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given by "n-a".

3. A block decoding method, comprising steps of:

20 determining whether a weighted block of n bits is an A type block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer; and

decoding, if the weighted block of n bits is the A type block of n bits, the A type block of n bits as a $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits and, if otherwise, decoding the weighted block of n bits as a $2N^{th}$ original block of m bits, N being a positive integer and "m" being a positive integer

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smaller than "n".

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the bit number "a" of
"1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a
5 relation $2^m < nC_a$.

5. A coding/decoding apparatus, comprising:

10 a first buffer for outputting a digitalized image
signal on a basis of an original block of m bits and
generating a timing signal for notifying when the original
block is outputted, "m" being a positive integer;

a first control part for determining whether the
original block of m bits is a $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m
bits, based on the timing signal, N being a positive integer;

15 an encoding part for encoding, if the original block of
m bits is the $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits, the original
block of m bits as an A type weighted block of n bits and, if
otherwise, encoding the original block of m bits as a B type
weighted block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer larger
20 than "m";

a storage medium for storing the encoded block of n
bits;

25 a second buffer for outputting the encoded block stored
at the storage medium on a basis of n bits and generating a
second timing signal for notifying when the encoded block is
outputted;

a second control part for determining whether the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits based on the second timing signal; and

a decoding part for decoding, if the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits, the encoded block of n bits as the $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits and if otherwise, decoding the weighted block of n bits as the $2N^{th}$ original block of m bits.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bit number "a" of bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation $2^m < {}_nC_a$, "a" being a positive integer, and the bit number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given by "n-a".